

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Department of Natural Resources
Room 1060
October 12, 2004

Minutes

Member Present:

SOWARDS, Glade – Utah Energy Office
KEENE, Michael – Office of Technology & Science
HARTY, Kimm – Utah Geological Survey
CANNING, Michael – Division of Wildlife Resources
ZAREKARIZI, Susan – State Parks & Recreation
WINTCH, Kenny – School & Institutional Trust Lands
REICHERT, Mike – DEQ/Division of Water Quality
GUNNEL, Roy – Utah Department of Agriculture
DANIELS, Ron – Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
FROST, Kim – Department of Natural Resources
KAPPE, Karl – Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands
SCHLOTTHAUER, Bill – Division of Water Rights
MILLIS, Eric – Division of Water Resources
TABET, David – Utah Geological Survey
CLARK, Robert - DEQ/Div. of Air Quality

Others Present:

WRIGHT, Carolyn – Department of Natural Resources
LANDURETH, Brenda – Department of Natural Resources
SINCLEAR, Jean – Bureau of Land Management
HIGDON, Matthew – Bureau of Land Management
CARSON, Bonnie – Bureau of Land Management

I. Approval of Minutes

Glade Sowards called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Corrections to the minutes:

Page 1, under approval of the minutes, third sentence, delete “to” and replace with “the text should.”

Page 2, first paragraph, first sentence, after “(BLM) is” add “not yet” and delete “by October 2004”. In the fourth paragraph replace “Terry Clark” with “Terry Green”. In the fifth paragraph, delete “and Dean Mitchell”.

Bill Schlotthauer made a motion to approve the minutes and Kimm Harty seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved with these corrections.

II. Special Discussion/Presentations

Jean Nitschke-Sinclear, Assistant Field Manager for Renewable Resources, Bureau of Land Management, and Bonnie Carson, EOG Resources, Inc., Representative

Introduced the RDCC to EOG Resources, Inc.'s proposal to fully develop their existing leases to develop gas resources in the Chapita Wells and Stagecoach Units in the Uinta

Basin (Townships 8 and 9 South, Ranges 22 East and Townships 9 and 10 South, Range South 23 East, Salt Lake Basin and Meridian, west and slightly south of the existing Bonanza gilsonite mine). The project area involves a total of 31, 872 total acres [22,693 (BLM-administered), 6,577 (tribal), 1,914 (School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration), and 688 (private)].

EOG's proposal would involve up to 627 new wells, drilling in the Green River, Wasatch, Mesa Verde (MV) and Mancos "B" formations. 470 of the proposed wells would be drilled to the MV formation, at depths ranging from 8,000-11,000 feet. 126 proposed wells would be drilled to the Wasatch formation, at depths ranging between 6,000-8,000 feet. Of the proposed number of new wells, 473 are proposed new locations and 154 are proposed to be "twinned". "Twinned" locations would involve two wells, drilling vertically, from the same pad.

Chapita Wells and Stagecoach are existing units involving 40-acre spacing. EOG also proposes to test drill some number of wells at 20-acre spacing, this would require working with the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM).

The following infrastructure for this project encompasses 121 miles of existing roads and 78 miles of new roads. Pipelines would be surface structures with about 50 percent paralleling roads. Up to four wells would be converted to produce water, using natural gas generators with possible switching to overhead electric power sources. There is a possibility of adding a dew point-hydrocarbon facility.

The *Notice of Intent* was published in the Federal Register on October 8, 2004. The formal scoping period will extend until close of business November 1, 2004. A public scoping meeting has been scheduled for October 19, 2004, Western Park Conference Facility, Vernal, Utah, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

RDCC members were asked to provide any comments, suggestions, questions and most importantly any relevant data to Jean Nitschke-Sinclear at the address provided on the scoping notice document on or before November 1, 2004.

Jean Nitschke-Sinclear also handed out a *Status of On-going NEPA Documents* currently in development in the Vernal Field Office (gold handout). Other handouts included the *Scoping Notice* and a detailed project area map. A *Draft Environmental Impact Statement* should be completed by summer 2005 and the *Record of Decision* should be completed within a year.

Contact Jean Nitschke-Sinclear if you have any questions.

II. Reports from Agencies on Any Anticipated Projects

Kim Frost, DNR Administration, reported a 45-day comment period extension for the Price Resource Management Plan.

Karl Kappe, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (DFFSL), reported that low lake level of Great Salt Lake has resulted in exposure of debris additional navigational hazards. DFFSL will be working to remove these navigational hazards (compressed air cylinders, military hardware and pipes).

The owners of Fremont Island have requested a permit for road access via off-highway vehicles the island from the memorial at the marina. Karl Kappe mentioned that DFFSL will request an expedited review from the Resource Development Coordinating Committee.

Karl Kappe reported that Utah Valley State College will be contracted to generate background information for the Utah Lake planning effort.

Bill Schlotthauer, Division of Water Rights (DWRi), reported that a adjudication team has been formed. Particular areas will be focused on to complete claims. In November, the DWRi will be changing a few positions.

Ron Daniels, DOGM, is working on a bill to change board responsibilities and to involve DOGM to make more technically based decisions. The mineral attorneys have not identified any problems. This will occur in the next legislative session.

Matthew Higdon, BLM, announced that the Kanab RMP will be formally initiated. In a few more weeks the BLM will have a searchable database for each field office.

III. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:35 a.m. The next meeting will be held on November 9, 2004, at 9:00 a.m., in room 1060.